

THE RELIGIOUS NEEDS OF ANGLO-AMERICAN COMMUNITIES ON THE MISSION FIELDS

Covering the Year 1921

The financial depression affecting foreign trade in all the centres in which English-speaking colonies are located has reacted upon the Union Churches maintained in a number of these cities. In some instances the English-speaking colonies have temporarily decreased; in others, the income of the churches from local sources has been affected to a greater or lesser extent. In spite of this fact the churches have on the whole had a good year.

One fact revealed by extensive correspondence with the local committees of these churches needs to be emphasized. It is that men of great ability and possessed of rather unusual capacity for leadership must be found for these churches. Where men of this type have in succession filled the pastorates, strong churches have grown up; on the other hand, where a choice has not been so fortunate, as has happened on occasions, the progress of the church has been materially retarded. The type of man which is required, particularly in great cosmopolitan centers, such as Peking, Shanghai, Tokyo, and Manila, must be provided with an adequate salary, and the failure or inability of the local church, with the help of a grant from your committee, to make such provision is a serious difficulty in the way of securing men of the right type.

The absence of the churches of the Panama Canal Zone, which those familiar with the work of this Committee may note, is due to the fact that the work of these churches has been given over to a Subcommittee of the Federal Council of Churches.

Hankow: The pulpit of this church has been supplied by members of the London Missionary Society who acted in an honorary capacity and gave only part time to the work. The foreign community has been growing steadily, and the church feels that the time has come to have a pastor of its own. An unmarried man, "preferably a Canadian," is desired. A new church building was

erected in 1917, free of debt; the church also owns another block of buildings consisting of a fair-sized lecture hall, several classrooms, etc.

Kobe: Rev. Clarence H. Benson, Pastor. The American community decreased in one year from 429 to 175. The exodus of the foreign community because of the business depression in Kobe has led the church, with the approval of Mr. Benson, to terminate his pastorate on December 31. The church continues the pastor's salary until April 1. In view of the difficult financial situation, your Committee has made a grant towards the pastor's traveling expenses. A large sacrifice from a few of the church members has made it possible for the church to finish the year with a deficit of not over 700 Yen. The church will be supplied by missionaries until it is in position to call a pastor.

Manila: Rev. Louis O. Richmond, Pastor. In October, 1921, Mr. Richmond resigned and exchanged pulpits for the following three months with Rev. Robert W. Beers, of the Union Church at Peking. This period of exchange expired January 1, 1922, and the church is now in need of a pastor. This is one of the most flourishing of the Union Churches; it is steadily increasing its membership and its activities and its finances are in good shape. It has increased its full membership to 172; affiliated 184; 137 new members were received during the year. The church owns spacious grounds on which they have a beautiful edifice with a roof garden used for Sunday School and social purposes. The Rev. John B. Ferguson will leave the United States some time in January to take the place of Mr. Beers who was supplying the pulpit temporarily.

Mexico City: Rev. William Evans Thomas, Pastor. After the resignation of the Rev. W. E. Cook in January, 1921, the church was without a pastor until Mr. Thomas took charge in September. It has a membership of about 100, 77 of whom are regular subscribers. The average attendance at the morning service is 100 and at Sunday School 95.

Peking: Rev. Robert W. Beers, Pastor. Mr. Beers exchanged pulpits for the last three months of the year 1920 with Rev. Louis O. Richmond, Pastor of the Union Church in Manila. For the great part of the year the attendance ranged from 300 to 600 with 96 new members added during the year. Its membership rose to 397,

the largest membership the church has ever had. Its great need now is for a church edifice. Its services are now being held in the Y. M. C. A., and there is no chance for social gatherings or meetings of subsidiary organizations. On account of the great famine, for which the services and resources of the church were utilized to relieve the suffering, no effort has been made during the past year by the Building Committee to secure funds for the building.

Rio de Janeiro: Rev. Isaac B. Harper, the Pastor for the past four years, has just resigned to become pastor of the American Church at Buenos Aires, and the Committee is now looking for a man to take Mr. Harper's place. The work is carried on under difficulties, the services being held at inconvenient hours in a Brazilian Church. "The work of the church is succeeding amazingly well under present handicaps; the congregations are larger than ever."

San Juan: By direct approach the church called to the pastorate the Rev. Charles B. Bare, formerly Associate Pastor of the First Congregational Church of Montclair, New Jersey. The church has 194 members with seven new members added during the year. The average attendance at the morning service is about 200 and at the Sunday School about 50. This is one of the best organized of the Union Churches, with an extended list of auxiliary organizations. "The church has been very successful from the beginning, is entirely self-supporting and has no debts. During the past year \$800 was spent, exclusive of Sunday School offerings, on various missionary and charitable endeavors. The annual budget of \$6,000 was provided for in an every-member canvass completed in one day. We are trying now to put into operation a plan of affiliated membership whereby people who keep their letters in the States can become more closely associated with this church."

Santiago: Rev. J. H. MacLean, Pastor. His resignation has been accepted by the church, to take effect when a new pastor is secured. He writes: "You would be gratified to see our greatly increased congregations at the Sunday morning services."

Seoul: Rev. A. F. De Camp, Pastor. The church has 70 full members, two of whom were added during the year. The services are held in the late afternoon and the average attendance is about 80. Since the English-speaking population in Seoul is only about 150,

including all religions, it has not been possible to secure a regular pastor. The pastor serves as a superintendent without salary, and the pulpit is occupied on Sunday either by the superintendent or one of the missionaries.

Shanghai: Rev. Luther Freeman, D.D., Acting Pastor. The Church has a membership of 355 with 109 new members added during the year. The Sunday Schools have been organized, and in fourteen months a membership of 225 has been secured. The special services include a Memorial Day with Sailors; Fourth of July, with addresses by U. S. Admiral, U. S. Consul General and Judge of U. S. Court for China; Thanksgiving Day Service, with General Black presiding, and consular forces and navy present; social celebration of all special days.

Tokyo: Rev. P. P. W. Ziemann, Pastor. Mr. Ziemann, who has spent some time in Japan in connection with other forms of Christian work, was called as pastor by this church. The report shows a very good year. There are 150 full members of whom 30 were added during the year. The average attendance at the one session held is about 130 with 70 to 80 in the Sunday School. The chairman of the local committee reports that attendance has never been so good in the history of the church as at present, and that the outlook is regarded as particularly bright.

Yokohama: Rev. Herbert A. Manchester, Pastor. Dr. Manchester went out to Yokohama by special arrangement by which neither the Committee nor the church were required to provide traveling expenses. On the other hand, Dr. Manchester entered into no definite contract, and will probably remain on the field but a short time. The church has a membership of 125 with an average attendance of 75 at the morning service, 40 at the evening service and 85 in the Sunday School. The depressed business conditions have affected the numbers in the English-speaking community and also the contributions for the church.

Possible Openings for New Churches: At Tampico, Mexico, and Sao Paulo, Brazil, there are possibilities of aiding in the creation of new Union Churches. The limited resources of the Committee, as well as the difficulty of securing sufficient men of the right type, has made impossible any steps in this direction.

Tourist Directories: Lack of time to adequately prepare the Tourist Directory of Christian work in the Far East and India and lack of funds to assure publication have prevented any progress.

Religious Services on Board Vessels: The conference last year approved a recommendation dealing with the question of religious services on board American ships. An approach was made to the United States Shipping Board, and the following reply was received from the Manager of the Operating Department:

"The conduct of religious services on board ship must come necessarily through the initiative of the passengers, and in the event of the presence on board of a member of the clergy or of laymen interested in religious work, there is no doubt but that the Master and officers of the vessel would be very glad to co-operate in the holding of such service for the benefit of those of the passengers who would be inclined to participate. Our suggestion, therefore, is that your Committee call to the attention of the clergy of the various denominations and to the organizations of laymen engaged in religious work the desirability of, in all cases, when they may be traveling on passenger vessels to take up the matter with the Master and officers of the vessel, when every facility will unquestionably be granted for the holding of such service.

"We will be glad to co-operate to the extent that if the Committee issues any literature, as above suggested, to the clergy and laymen of the various denominations, we will call the attention of our Managing Agents to the matter and they in turn will bespeak the co-operation of the officers of the vessels under their management for the account of the United States Shipping Board."

NEEDS: 1. *Houses of Worship.* It is evident that the permanent success of the Union Churches is dependent upon the possession of a church building with adequate facilities for the type of work undertaken. In many cases no such provision has been made. Your Committee realizes that it is not possible at this time to approach the Boards with a building program, yet there should be recognition of the fact that ultimately a large sum of money must be secured from some source if these churches are to be suitably housed.

2. *Vacancies:* The following vacancies exist: Peking, Hankow, Rio de Janeiro, and Kobe. One of these, Hankow, has been vacant for some time, and the Committee is quite hopeful that at last a man suitable for this post has been found. The other churches became vacant on the first of the year, and we are already in correspondence with men with a view to filling the churches. The Peking Church

is proposing and your Committee is co-operating with them in a plan by which it is hoped to secure the services of a minister widely known throughout the United States for a period of six or nine months, during which time a careful search will be made for a man to fill this very important post.

3. *Grants-in-Aid* will be needed during the coming year by at least eight churches. In addition, an unusually large sum will be required for the transportation of Pastors, since at least five churches will need to be supplied during the year. The attached budget indicates this will require a larger amount of money than has been available during the past year.

ANGLO-AMERICAN COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Receipts

January 1, 1921—December 29, 1921.

BOARDS:

Balance	\$ 2.70
Canadian Baptist	75.00
Methodist Church, Canada.....	321.00
Presbyterian Church in Canada.....	400.00
Seventh-Day Adventist	200.00
American Baptist	600.00
American Board of Commissioners.....	500.00
Evangelical Association	50.00
Methodist Episcopal	1,200.00
Methodist Episcopal, South	300.00
Presbyterian in the U. S.....	500.00
Presbyterian in the U. S. A.....	1,200.00
United Presbyterian	50.00
Reformed Church in America.....	200.00
Reformed Church in the U. S.....	200.00
United Brethren in Christ	200.00
World's Sunday School Association	100.00
Y. M. C. A.....	600.00
Y. W. C. A.....	50.00
United Lutheran	100.00
Individual donors	510.00

Total \$7,358.70

Expenditure

Kobe Union Church	\$ 1,000.00
Peking Union Church	1,000.00
Rio de Janeiro Union Church.....	1,000.00
Santiago Union Church (2 years).....	1,200.00
Yokohama Union Church	500.00
Transportation of Pastors	1,300.00
Cables, Telegrams, Printing, etc.....	81.98

\$6,081.98

Balance on hand December 31, 1921..... \$1,276.72

Budget Proposed for 1922

Hankow Union Church	\$ 500.00
Mexico City Union Church.....	500.00
Kobe Union Church.....	1,000.00
Peking Union Church (Tentative).....	750.00
Rio de Janeiro Union Church.....	1,000.00
Santiago Union Church	600.00
Shanghai Union Church	500.00
Yokohama Union Church	750.00
Transportation of Pastors	4,000.00
Cables, Telegrams, Printing, etc.....	100.00

\$9,700.00

